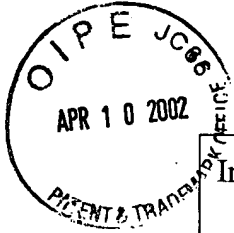


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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office



In re Application of:

Inventor: Geoffrey R. Hird

Serial No.: 09/874,795

Filing Date: June 5, 2001

Title: Method and Apparatus for Secure  
Cryptographic Key Generation,  
Certification and Use

Art Unit: 2131

Examiner: Unassigned

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*Jan Steele*

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before considering the above-identified application on its merits, please amend the application as follows:

**\*\* Remainder of Page Is Intentionally Left Blank \*\***